India's rank in HDI

†1882. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been ranked at 126th position among 177 countries of the world in Human Development Index (HDI) Report for the year 2006 formulated under United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to improve the criteria like sanitary conditions, supply of potable water, literacy rate and health care etc.; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to ensure development in the social sector also in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Human Development Report 2006 entitled "Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crises", released by the UNDP, India has been ranked at 126th position on Human Development Index (HDI) amongst 177 countries of the world.

(b) The Government has been implementing several schemes/ programmes in order to extend acces to essential public services such as sanitation, clean drinking water, literacy rate, health care, etc. for improving the standard of living of people, in general, and for people living below the poverty line, in particular. Important among these are National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara, Total Sanitation Campaign for improving basic services and infrastructure. Central Government expenditure on Social Services which includes expenditure on education, health, water supply etc. have gone up consistently over the years, increasing from Rs. 28462 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 55969 crores in 2005-06 (RE), implying an increase of 96.6% during this four year period, 2001-02 to 2005-06.

(c) According to the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12), as approved by the National Development Council (NDC), "a basic objective of the 11th Plan must be to extend access to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

essential public services such as health, education, clean drinking water, sanitation, etc., to those who are deprived of them. (Para-7.2.4, Page-99, Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth, An Approach to the 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission).

Vacant posts in TRAI

1883. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of vacant posts of Principal Advisors in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ltd. (TRAI);

(b) whether any efforts are being made to fill up these vacant posts;

(c) whether vacant posts in TRAI at different levels including the post of Principal Advisors are not being circulated widely as per norms laid down by Department of Personnel (DoP) and Public Enterprise Selection Board (PSEB);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether TRAI has pre-selected some top-level officials from the DoT licencing cell and BSNL's Corporate office flouting rules of the DoP and PSEB; and

(f) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Two posts in the grade of Principal Advisors/Advisor are presently vacant in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) and (c) In exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 10 (1) and 36 (1) of the TRAI Act, 1997, TRAI has made the Regulations governing appointment of officers and employees of TRAI *viz.,* TRAI (Officers and Staff Appointment) Regulation, 2001. Clause 13 of the above said Regulation provides that the posts which are to be filled up by the method of Deputation would be widely circulated among such Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which are expected to have people with the qualifications and experience matching